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Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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----------056824 191359Z /46
R 191021Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4234

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN THOMAS AND NEA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, MO, US
SUBJ: CODEL SMITH'S JANUARY 16 MEETING WITH LEADERSHIP OF MOROCCAN PARLIAMENT

1. MEMCON (SUBJECT TO CODEL CLEARANCE) OF SUBJECT MEETING FOLLOWS:

QUOTE
DATE & PLACE: JANUARY 16, 1978, PARLIAMENT, RABAT
PARTICIPANTS: BUREAU OF PARLIAMENT
MR. DEY OULD SIDI BABA, PRESIDENT
MR. AHMED LASKY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MR. HACHMI FILALI, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MOULAY ALI ALAOUI, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
MR. OULD SAID JOUMANI KHARTI, FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT
MR. MOHAMED BENSAID, FIFTH VICE PRESIDENT
MR. MOHAMED TAKI ALLAH MAA EL AININ, SIXTH VICE PRESIDENT
MR. IDRISS ABDOU EL MARRAKCHI, SEVENTH VICE PRESIDENT
MR. MOHAMED GZOULI, EIGHTH VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARIES
MR. ABOUTAHAR AL AZIZ
MR. ABDELAZIZ HAFIDI ALAOUI
MR. ALI LAMNIOUI
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MR. MOHAMED BENTALEB
MR. AHMED BOUAKOU
MR. MOHAMED BELKADI
MR. ABDELAZIZ BOUMGHAIT
MR. MOHAMED RACHID DOUIHI
MR. ASSOU ZADKI
MR. MOHAMED MELLOUK

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MR. AHMED KADIRI
QUESTORS
MR. MOHAMED ALOUAFA
MR. YAHYA IBN TOUMERT
MR. OMAR JAZOULI
MR. AHMED NADIFI
MR. ABDELHAMID KACIMI, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION, FRONTIERS,
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NATIONAL DEFENSE
MR. MOHAMED JALAL ES SAID, PRESIDENT OF THE
COMMISSION OF JUSTICE, LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC
FUNCTIONS
REPRESENTATIVE NEAL SMITH
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. FLYNT, JR.
REPRESENTATIVE MARK ANDREWS
REPRESENTATIVE CLARENCE MILLER
REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH P. ADDABBO
REPRESENTATIVE TOM BEVILL
REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE M. O'BRIEN
REPRESENTATIVE JOHM W. WYDLER
MR. DEMPSEY MIZELLE, STAFF ASSISTANT
MR. JOHN OSTHAUS, STAFF ASSISTANT
ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN M. THOMAS
MS. VALERIE PINSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOUSE
LIAISON THE WHITE HOUSE
MR. CHARLES SNODGRASS, STAFF ASSISTANT
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AMBASSADOR ROBERT ANDERSON
G. NORMAN ANDERSON, POLITICAL COUNSELOR
CHARLES L. DARIS, POLITICAL OFFICER

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: DURING CODEL'S JANUARY 16 CALL ON PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT DEY OULD SIDI BABA, THE LATTER HAD VIRTUALLY EVERY MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU PRESENT. SIDI BABA BEGAN BY PAYING HOMAGE TO THE LATER SENATOR HUMPHREY, WARMLY WELCOMED THE CODEL, AFFIRMED MOROCCO'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND GAVE A LENGTHY AND ELOQUENT EXPOSE OF THE MOROCCAN SAHARA POSITION. HE CALLED ON THE U.S. TO "INTERVENE" FOR PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING IN THE REGION, AND INVITED ANY HOUSE OR SENATE DELEGATION TO VISIT SAHARA. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

SIDI BABA INVOKED "TWO CENTURIES OF RELATIONS" THEME, AND RECALLED THE MORAL BOOST PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT GAVE TO THE CAUSE OF MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE DURING THE WW II CASABLANCA CONFERENCE. HE WENT ON TO COVER A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS:

COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY: MOROCCO AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY IS WORKING TO RAISE THE STANDARDS OF ITS PEOPLE AND PRESERVE ITS PHILOSOPHICAL HERITAGE. IT REALIZES THAT THESE

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GOALS CAN BE MET ONLY IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM AND PEACE.
DEMOCRACY IS AN INDISPENSABLE INGREDIENT TO DEVELOPMENT.
DEMOCRACY IMPLIES THAT THE CITIZEN FEELS FREE, IS ABLE TO CHOOSE
THE PARTY AND UNION OF HIS CHOICE. IT IS A SACRED PRINCIPLE.
COLONIAL TRACES: GIVEN ITS UNIQUE GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL
BACKGROUND, MOROCCO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN, IN AFRICA, AND IN THE ARAB WORLD. MOROCCO, HOWEVER,
IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IT WAS AN INDEPENDENT NATION
FOR OVER 1,000 YEARS. IT WAS ONLY AT THE TURN OF THIS CENTURY
THAT COLONIAL POWERS REACHED SECRET AGREEMENT TO FRAGMENT
IT. IF MOROCCO HAD ACCEPTED THE (AFRICAN) PRINCIPLE OF RECOGNIZING
COLONIAL FRONTIERS, IT WOULD TODAY CONSIST OF SIX STATES.
HOWEVER, IT WORKED TO REGAIN ITS LOST TERRITORIES BY PEACEFUL
AND LEGAL MEANS.
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ALGERIAN DESIGNS: UNFORTUNATELY BOUMEDIENE, IN SPITE OF HIS
SOLEMN PLEDGE AT THE 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT, HAD CHOSEN
CONFRONTATION. HIS PREOCCUPATION WAS BASED ON IDEOLOGY AND A
DESIRE FOR ALGERIAN HEGEMONY IN THE MAGHREB. THUS, THE PROBLEM
CONCERNS THAT FREE WORLD.
MOROCCO PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ALGERIAN
INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT A DEAL OFFERED BY
THE FRENCH TO RETURN TO MOROCCO TERRITORY PREVIOUSLY DETACHED
TO ALGERIA, IN RETURN FOR CESSATION OF MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO
ALGERIANS. THE PROVISIONAL ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD SIGNED AN
AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE THE PROBLEM LATER WITH MOROCCO. AFTER-
WARDS, ALGERIAN EXPANSIONISM, ENCOURAGED BY NASSER, LED TO THE
TRAGIC 1963 BORDER WAR. NOW ALGERIA WISHES TO KEEP THE
TERRITORY TAKEN FROM MOROCCO BY FRANCE AND TO TAKE OVER THE
SAHARA AS WELL. WHEN SPAIN MET ITS POLITICALL AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS
TO NEGOTIATE THE END OF ITS OCCUPATION, THE ALGERIANS BEGAN THEIR
DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AND RECRUITED NON-SAHARANS TO ORGANIZE BANDS
OF MERCENARIES TO AGGRESS OUR NATIONAL SOIL. THEY ALSO FORCED
SOME SAHARAN POPULATION TO TINDOUF, PLACED THEM IN CONCENTRATION
CAMPS, AND INSISTED THEY WERE REFUGEES. THEY ARE NOT REFUGEES.
THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES IS A TRIED AND TRUE TRACTIC REPEATEDLY
EMPLOYED BY SUBVERSIVE FORCES, AS IS WAS IN GREECE IN 1948 AND
IN ZAIRE FOLLOWING THE SHABA WAR.

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SELF-DETERMINATION: ALGERIA KEEPS DEMANDING SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE SAHARA BUT HAS PREJUDGED THE MATTER BY DECLARING AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT THERE. ANY CONGRESSIONAL OR SENATORIAL DELEGATION CAN VISIT EL AYOUN TO SEE THAT SAHARANS ARE LIVING IN PEACE AND CALM, THAT DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY ARE IN EVIDENCE. THE POPULATION IS HAPPY TO BE INTEGRATED AGAIN INTO THEIR HOME-LAND. THERE ARE THREE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS AT THIS TABLE -- TWO VICE PRESIDENTS AND ONE SECRETARY -- FROM THE SARAHA, AND THERE ARE NINE SAHARAN DEPUTIES IN THE PARLIAMENT.

BOUMEDIENE, DURING HIS CURRENT ANTI-SADAT TRAVELS, IS TALKING TO EVERYONE ABOUT THE SAHARA. HE WENT ON TO MOSCOW AND BELGRADE, AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUES MENTIONED SELF-DETERMINATION. SELF-DETERMINATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT REGULARLY THROUGH LOCAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND OTHER CONSULTATIONS IN ADMINISTERING AND DEVELOPING THE AREA. SPAINS' OCCUPATION WAS ONLY A BRIEF HISTORICAL INTERLUDE.

NEGOTIATIONS: BOUMEDIENE IS IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THE IMPASSE. KING HASSAN HAS SAID HE IS READY TO LET HIM OUT, THAT MOROCCO IS READY TO NEGOTIATE ALL QUESTIONS EXCEPT THE TERRITORAL INTEGRITY OF MOROCCO. IF FACE SAVING IS NEEDED, THE KING IS READY. IT IS CERTAINLY IN MOROCCO'S INTEREST TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN PURSUING AN ARMS RACE RUINOUS FOR EVERYONE.

U.S. ROLE: THE U.S. HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLE OF THE REGION. THIS IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE. ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON THE LARGE QUANTITIES OF GAS AND OIL EXPORTED TO THE
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U.S. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF MOROCCO AND ALGERIA THAT THE U.S. INTERVENE IN FAVOR OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. BUT WE CANNOT FORGET THE PARADOX THAT BOUMEDIENE IS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE WEST AND RECEIVING DIRECTIONS FROM THE EAST AND EXPORTING THE LATTER'S IDEOLOGY.

MOROCCO TO RESIST OUTSIDE IDEOLOGIES: MOROCCANS ARE UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORT OF THE MOROCCAN SAHARA. MOROCCO IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESOURCES, ITS GEOGRAPHY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS FRIENDS IN THE WORLD. THUS IT WILL PRESERVE ITS RELIGION AND VALUES AND RESIST IMPLANTATION OF OUTSIDE IDEOLOGIES IN THE REGION. IT CAN

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BE AN ELEMENT OF CONFIDENCE AND COMFORT FOR THE WEST AND WILL FULFILL ITS ROLE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

ZAIRE: MOROCCO DID NOT RESPOND TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S APPEAL OUT OF PRESUMPTION OR PRETENSION. IT WAS A GESTURE OF SELF-DEFENSE BECAUSE ZAIRE WAS THE KEY TO STABILITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY THE SUDAN. MOROCCO'S ASSISTANCE HELPED PRESERVE MOROCCO'S OWN INTERESTS. MOROCCO DOES NOT ACCEPT CUBANS WHO COME AND IMPOSE NEW REGIMES THROUGH SUBVERSION.

MIDDLE EAST: THE ARAB WORLD NEEDS PEACE. IT IS ABSURD FOR POOR COUNTRIES TO BE DEVOTING RESOURCES TO ARMS, SOMETHING WHICH ONLY MAKES THEM INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. THIS IS WHY THE KING SUPPORTED SADAT. THE ISRAELIS AS WELL AS THE ABABS NEED PEACE. MOROCCO REMAINS ATTACHED TO THE DECISION OF THE 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT RECOGNIZING THE PLO AS THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENVISIONS THAT THE TERRITORY UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION WILL SOMEDAY BECOME AN EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN STATE. MOROCCO CLOSELY FOLLOWS U.S. EFFORTS IN THE AREA WITH SYMPATHY AND HOPE. SADAT'S EFFORTS MUST SUCCEED.

FUTURE CONTACTS: MOROCCO PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE PARLIAMENT WILL HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ITS CONTACTS WITH THE HOUSE AND SENATE SO THAT EACH MAY BENEFIT FROM THE OTHER'S EXPERIENCES.

CODEL REPLY: CONGRESSMAN SMITH THANKED SIDI BABA

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FOR HIS ELOQUENT, THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION, WHICH HAD GIVEN THE CODEL A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MOROCCO'S CONCERNS AND FEARS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MOROCCO'S WISHES TO DEFEND ITS MATERIAL PROGRESS AND MAINTAIN ITS FREEDOM. AND SAID HE LOOKED TO FUTURE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MOROCCAN REPRESENATIVE BODIES. END QUOTE.

ANDERSON

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